



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

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January 29, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
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Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen   
Chief Administrative Officer

**SACRAMENTO UPDATE**

**Medi-Cal Reform Meeting**

On January 26, 2004, the California Health and Human Services Secretary, Kim Belshé, convened a meeting of stakeholders to discuss the Administration's Medi-Cal reform plans. Ms. Belshé indicated that a major reform of Medi-Cal is needed to save State funding, and represents a more desirable alternative than simply cutting Medi-Cal benefits or restricting eligibility.

Although few specifics were offered, the Administration indicated the following reform goals: 1) protect eligibility for people currently eligible, 2) maintain essential services and align coverage with the private sector, 3) continue services to children as a priority, 4) increase the personal responsibility of beneficiaries by requiring increased cost sharing, 5) promote work participation by allowing the working poor to retain Medi-Cal coverage, and 6) improve program effectiveness and accountability by promoting organized delivery systems.

More specifically, the Administration is seeking, through a Federal Medicaid Waiver, to simplify eligibility standards and processes, create a tiered benefit structure with different levels of benefits and cost sharing by type of eligible, and modify health care delivery systems to promote managed care and other organized models such as disease management. The Administration plans to generate a Waiver concept paper by May and submit the Waiver proposal to the Federal government in October of this year.

The target start date for a phased-in implementation is July 1, 2005, and the State savings target for the reform is \$400 million beginning in FY 2005-06. It is not clear whether the new Waiver would include or exclude existing Waivers such as the ones governing Medi-Cal Managed Care and the Selective Provider Contracting Program.

The Administration has scheduled a similar stakeholder meeting on February 4, 2004 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Los Angeles in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room.

### **Pursuit of County Position on Legislation**

On March 11, 2003, your Board supported **AB 26 (Pacheco)** which would have required the Department of Justice (DOJ) to categorize sexual offender registration information by community of residence and county and to provide the information via the Internet. This bill failed passage in the Assembly.

Existing law requires the DOJ to compile information on persons required to register as a sex offender and to provide the information to law enforcement agencies. The agencies must make the information available for public viewing if an applicant provides identification, expresses a purpose for the review, signs a statement that they are not a registered sex offender, and understands that the information cannot be used for illegal purposes.

**AB 488 (Parra)**, as amended on January 26, 2004, would require the DOJ to disseminate registered sex offender information pursuant to Megan's Law via an Internet web site operated by the DOJ. The web site will include all the information determined feasible by the DOJ except the person's name, street address, date-of-birth or relationship to the registrant. A court may have this information included based upon the prosecutor's motion or on its own motion. Persons visiting the web site will provide their name, state that they are not a registered sex offender and acknowledge that they will not use the information for illegal purposes. The bill will also end dissemination of sex offender information by CD-ROM or via the 900 telephone number effective July 1, 2005. DOJ would be required to maintain the new web site through July 1, 2010.

Therefore, consistent with the Board's support of AB 26 and prior Board policy to support legislation that will broaden the scope of information about sex offenders that can be provided over the internet, our **Sacramento advocates will support AB 488.**

The Sheriff is reviewing this bill and has indicated that the department supports the policy of providing certain sex offender information on the Internet. However, the Sheriff does not support the inclusion of the registrant's address because of the possibility of vigilante actions. The Author's office indicates that because the bill has been recently

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amended, there is no support or opposition to the bill on the record. AB 488 passed the Assembly on January 26, 2004 by a vote of 73 to 2 and was sent to the Senate.

We will continue to keep you informed.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:JF:hg/n

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
         County Counsel  
         Local 660  
         All Department Heads  
         Legislative Strategist  
         Coalition of County Unions  
         California Contract Cities Association  
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         League of California Cities  
         City Managers Associations  
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